Syllable Split Detectives

Use vowel sounds to choose the syllable break.

3.2.A.iv "decoding words using knowledge of syllable division patterns such as VCCV, VCV, and VCCCV with accent shifts;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

SPLIT AFTER THE MIDDLE CONSONANT

In a VCV part, split after the middle consonant when the first vowel is short.

planet, plan/et

SPLIT BEFORE THE MIDDLE CONSONANT

In a VCV part, split before the middle consonant when the first vowel is long.

paper, pa/per

1 SORT

8 items

Read each word to your teacher. Circle AFTER or BEFORE, then choose two words, mark a syllable slash, and explain the vowel sound used for each split.

1.	lemon	AFTER BEFORE
2.	tiger	AFTER BEFORE
3.	hotel	AFTER BEFORE
4.	camel	AFTER BEFORE
5.	music	AFTER BEFORE
6.	seven	AFTER BEFORE
7.	robot	AFTER BEFORE
8.	visit	AFTER BEFORE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new VCV word for AFTER and one new VCV word for BEFORE. Mark each syllable break with a slash.

AFTER _____

BEFORE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a different VCV word. Mark the split, name its category, and explain which vowel sound helped you decide.

ANSWER KEY

Syllable Split Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	lemon	**AFTER**	lem/on, the first e is short.
2	tiger	**BEFORE**	ti/ger, the first i is long.
3	hotel	**BEFORE**	ho/tel, the first o is long.
4	camel	**AFTER**	cam/el, the first a is short.
5	music	**BEFORE**	mu/sic, the first u is long.
6	seven	**AFTER**	sev/en, the first e is short.
7	robot	**BEFORE**	ro/bot, the first o is long.
8	visit	**AFTER**	vis/it, the first i is short.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **AFTER**: cabin, cab/in.
- **BEFORE**: bacon, ba/con.

Challenge: My word is silent, si/lent, and it is BEFORE. The i says /ī/, so I split before l.

For Part 2, accept any two correctly classified items if the student marks the correct slash and identifies the first vowel as short for AFTER or long for BEFORE. Part 3 and challenge answers may vary when the word, split, and category are correct. Cabin has a short first a and splits cab/in; raven has a long first a and would split ra/ven in BEFORE. Listen to the learner blend and read the chosen words, offering support as needed.